

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY A/FBO:GFTWOHIE:JGA

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P 241336Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 044014

FOLLOWING REPEATS DHAHRAN 233 ACTION SECSTATE JIDDA 19 FEB

QUOTE DHAHRAN 0233

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT FBO DECORATOR

REF: (A) 75 JIDDA 8268 (NOTAL), (B) JIDDA 0298, (C) JIDDA 0877
(NOTAL)

1. WITH SHARPLY INCREASED TRADE PROMOTION AND AMCIT PROTECTION ACTIVITY AT THIS POST DUE TO SAUDI ARABIA'S REMARKABLE ECONOMIC BOOM AND RAPID EXPANSION OF U.S. COMMUNITY HERE (IN EXCESS OF 60 PER CENT INCREASE IN TOTAL AMCIT RESIDENTS IN 9 MONTHS LAST YEAR), WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF OUR REPRESENTATIONAL AND PUBLIC-USE AREAS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE MANY OF OUR FACILITIES WERE UNFORTUNATELY NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED DURING EARLY SEVENTIES WHEN CONGEN RESPONSIBILITIES IN NEIGHBORING GULF AREAS (AND CONSEQUENTLY CONGEN BUDGET AND STAFF) WERE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.

2. FURNITURE PRESENTLY IN USE IN CONGEN OFFICE BUILDING IS OF VINTAGE WHEN POST WAS OPENED OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO, TODAY IN DESIGN, IT IS WORN, FRAYED AND DISCOLORED FROM DECADES OF DESERT USE. QUALITY OF WORKMANSHIP AND COST OF LOCAL ARTISANS MAKE IT
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IMPRUDENT TO REUPHOLSTER OR REFINISH FURNITURE. GIVEN COMMERCIAL

IMPORTANCE OF THIS POST, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CONGEN PROJECT FRESH AND FLOURISHING IMAGE TO BUSINESS VISITORS WHICH ONLY NEW FURNISHINGS CAN CONVEY.

3. POST PLANS TO EMBARK ON PROGRAM OF GRADUAL REPLACEMENT OF OFFICE PURNITURE. OUR EFFORTS ARE HINDERED BY LACK OF CATALOGS ON SUITABLE OFFICE FURNITURE (INCLUDING CHAIRS, TABLES, COUCHES), CARPETS, ETC.

4. CONGEN HAS DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH EMBASSY JIDDA, AND BOTH CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT FBO DECORATOR VISIT DHAHRAN IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING TRIP TO JIDDA. WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS CHANGE MAY POST DIFFICULTIES FOR DECORATOR, BUT BELIEVE IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND A GOOD INVESTMENT TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IN SELECTING THE MOST SUITABLE FURNISHINGS AVAILABLE, WHICH CAN BE USED FOR MAY YEARS TO COME.

5. EMBASSY WISHES DECORATOR TO KNOW THAT IT WILLING TO HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVEL WITHIN SAUDI ARABIA IF THOSE CHANGES ARE DIFFICULT TO MAKE IN WASHINGTON. DHAHRAN VISIT CAN BE RELATIVELY FRIEF, AND EMBASSY IS CONFIDENT THAT NECESSARY ARRANGMENT CAN BE MADE CONCERNING THE REQUIRED TIEM AND TRAVEL PLANS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY AND CONGEN OF DECORATOR'S WILLINGNESS TO ADD DHAHRAN TO ITINERARY AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

7. FOR JIDDA: REQUISITIONS REQUESTED BY REF C BEING HELD PENDING ARRIVAL OF FBO DECORATOR.
BUSHNELL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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